

Remarks

Referring to the Examiner's rejection under paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of the detailed action, applicants have cancelled claims 17 and 18 and recast claims 19 and 20 in independent form.

Turning to the Examiner's rejections under 35 USC §102 detailed in paragraphs 7 to 10 of the detailed action, applicants have amended independent claims 1, 12, 15, 19 and 20 to clarify the nature of the invention. No new matter has been added.

The present invention is concerned with allocating IP addresses to nodes of integrated IS-IS communications network so that the nodes may be contacted using IP type methods. (See page 1, lines 21 to 24 and page 2, lines 7 to 12). Thus, a unique IP address is allocated to a node of the integrated IS-IS network from a list of one or more potentially available IP addresses. This allocated IP address is then used as a destination address to address IP packets to the node. Being able to contact the node using IP type methods is particularly useful in using remote network management software which communicate using IP packets. Previously, an operator would have to travel to the site of the IS-IS node to manually allocate an IP address. This is clearly disadvantageous since such nodes may be distributed over very large geographical areas. The present invention enables an IP address to be automatically allocated to nodes of an integrated IS-IS network without requiring an operator to make a local visit.

In contrast, US 5,917,820 (Rekhter) describes an improved arrangement for quickly and efficiently forwarding packets in a packet-switched network (see abstract, for example). Thus, Rekhter is not concerned with allocating IP addresses as destination addresses for contacting nodes in an integrated IS-IS network but with setting up forwarding tables in routers of a packet-switched network so that packets (such as IP packets) may be forwarded onto the next hop towards their ultimate

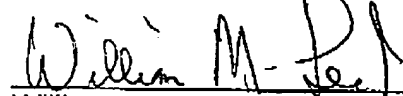
destination which typically is an end node in the network, not an IS-IS node. In other words, Rekhter is concerned with forwarding packets whereas the present invention is concerned with allocating addresses.

Accordingly, the Examiner's rejections cannot be sustained and favorable reconsideration of the present application is solicited.

No fee is due, as the Applicants have already paid for four independent claims.

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Respectfully submitted,



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